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**Human Rights Council**
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Agenda item 10

## Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 23 June 2017

### 35/32. National policies and human rights

*The Human Rights Council*,

*Guided* by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

*Guided also* by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations,

*Recalling* all relevant international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,

*Recalling also* its resolutions 23/19 of 23 June 2013, 27/26 of 26 September 2014 and 30/24 of 2 October 2015, on national policies and human rights,

*Recalling further* that States emphasized in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and the 2005 World Summit Outcome[1] that they bear the responsibility, in conformity with the Charter, to develop and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind such as race, colour, sex, language, disability, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status,

*Bearing in mind* that States should integrate their obligations and commitments under international human rights law into their national legislation in order to ensure that State action at the national level is effectively directed towards the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

*Noting* that State action aimed at the promotion, protection and full realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms at the national level is most effective when fully integrated into national policies based on a human rights perspective,

[1] General Assembly resolution 60/1.

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*Reaffirming* that all human rights are indivisible, universal, inalienable, interdependent and interrelated and that, therefore, national policies aimed at their promotion and protection will also have a mutually reinforcing effect on their realization,

*Recognizing* that each State has the right to choose the framework that is best suited to its particular needs at the national level,

*Reaffirming* the importance of international cooperation to support States in the process of integrating their obligations and commitments under international human rights law into national legislation, and drawing up and carrying out national policies aimed at the full realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

*Recognizing* the important and constructive role that national human rights institutions and civil society can play in the process of drawing up and assessing the impact of national policies aimed at the promotion, protection and full realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

*Bearing in mind* that the technical cooperation offered by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, upon the request of and in close cooperation with States, with the aim of integrating human rights into national policies and programmes can be a useful vehicle to support States' compliance with their human rights obligations and their follow-up to recommendations made by United Nations human rights mechanisms,

*Affirming* that the inclusive participation, as appropriate, of all sectors of society in the development, design, formulation and implementation of and follow-up to policies and programmes affecting the population is critical for the success of such processes,

*Recognizing* that public policies planned and formulated through participatory, transparent and accessible approaches are a key factor in promoting respect for and safeguarding the realization of human rights,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which the Assembly adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, the commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, the recognition in the Agenda that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, the commitment in the Agenda to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business, and pledging to contribute to the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030,

*Recognizing* that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, of unprecedented scope and significance, is accepted by all countries and is applicable to all, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities, moreover, that its 17 goals and 169 targets are universal and involve the entire world, developed and developing countries alike, and are aimed at ensuring that no one is left behind,

*Noting* that the 2030 Agenda is guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including full respect for international law, and is grounded in the International Bill of Human Rights and international human rights treaties, that it is informed by other instruments, such as the Declaration on the Right to Development, and that it is to be implemented in a manner that is consistent with the rights and obligations of States under international law,

1. *Welcomes* the expert workshop to discuss effective, inclusive and participatory mechanisms and methodologies to mainstream human rights in the formulation and implementation of public policies, held on 5 September 2016, and takes note with appreciation of the summary report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the expert workshop;[1]

2. *Emphasizes* that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development offers entry points for inclusive and participatory implementation of plans and national policies, while mainstreaming human rights towards a more balanced and integrated plan of action for achieving sustainable development that reflects the indivisibility and interdependence of all human rights;

3. *Encourages* States to give due consideration to information, observations and recommendations from human rights mechanisms, including the universal periodic review, when implementing and monitoring progress on the 2030 Agenda;

4. *Encourages* regional and international human rights systems to provide technical assistance and capacity-building to States, upon request, in order to enable them to fulfil their human rights obligations and related commitments through the said processes;

5. *Acknowledges* the efforts made by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in both technical assistance and capacity-building, upon request and in close cooperation with States, to align laws, policies, institutions and practices with their human rights obligations and commitments, to implement universal periodic review recommendations supported by the States concerned and to follow up on recommendations made by other United Nations human rights mechanisms;

6. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to enhance further the efforts aimed at supporting these measures in order that national policies, programmes and strategies, by including human rights obligations in their formulation and execution, have a positive impact on the effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals;

7. *Recommends* that States integrate into their national policies a human rights perspective aimed at the promotion, protection and full realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and take into consideration the views of civil society in the process;

8. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to prepare a compilation of good practices, challenges, lessons learned and recommendations in mainstreaming human rights as enshrined in international human rights law, into national policies, in order to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in consultation with States, relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, intergovernmental organizations, treaty bodies, special procedures, regional human rights mechanisms, national human rights institutions, civil society organizations, academia and other relevant stakeholders, including through informal regional consultations, and to submit it to the Human Rights Council at its forty-first session;

9. *Requests* the Advisory Committee to contribute during the consultation process, including by the participation of its members in the informal consultations, and to prepare a study that could help States to implement the 2030 Agenda by integrating human rights into national policies on the basis of the compilation prepared by the High Commissioner, and to present it within its regular reporting cycle to the Human Rights Council by the forty-fifth session, on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

[1] A/HRC/34/35.

10. *Encourages* States to support the Office of the High Commissioner and the members of the Advisory Committee in this endeavour, taking into account the importance of sharing good practices across regions and of international cooperation;

11. *Invites* the Office of the High Commissioner and relevant United Nations bodies, agencies, funds and programmes and other relevant stakeholders to cooperate with States in providing technical assistance, upon request, to the States concerned, with the purpose of assisting them in integrating human rights into national policies and programmes so that national policies aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals contribute to the enjoyment of human rights;

12. *Decides* to remain seized of this issue.

*37th meeting*
*23 June 2011*

[Adopted without a vote.]